



**WCFC Meeting
February 13, 2013
Natural Resources Building
Olympia**

Members Attending: Kathy Sheehan, Garth Davis, Sheila Gray, David Erickson, Micki McNaughton, Kathy Wolf, Lisa Ciecko, Ara Erickson, Terry Flatley, David Nelson, Brian Cramer, Sarah Foster, Joe Scorcio

Absent: Sandy Salisbury, Jim Freed, Richard Emery

Guests: Linden Lampman, Albert Kassel, Commissioner Peter Goldmark, State Forester Aaron Everett

Action Items:

1. Kathy Wolf – letter to USFS research station. Postponed until new director is in place due to previous director retiring. Copy of letter to Peg Polichio (Director of State and Private Forestry for USFS Region 6).
2. Sarah will send letter that Council Chair sent to Commissioner Goldmark after his re-election.

WCFC Annual Meeting convened at 9:00 AM in Room 172 of the Natural Resources Building in Olympia, Washington. Chair Joe Scorcio led roundtable self-introductions of the Council.

Welcome to DNR: Albert Kassel, Resource Protection Acting Division Manager

Albert thanked the Council for their time and services to Washington, and welcomed the Council to DNR and the NRB. He discussed changes in leadership the Resource Protection Division. Newly appointed as Resource Protection Acting Division Manager, Albert began his career with the DNR in 1990 as a seasonal firefighter. He maintains an open-door policy, so feel free to contact him with any questions or concerns. Albert looks forward to being engaged with the Council. Kathy Wolf asked Albert how he sees the Council's involvement with statewide policy evolving under the new Division leadership. Albert gave some background on the Division, its assigned tasks and responsibilities. Commissioner Peter Goldmark and State Forester Aaron Everett will visit the Council later in the day as their schedules allow.

Council Business:

October 2012 meeting minutes and February 2013 agenda approved (motion by Terry Flatley; David Erickson seconded). Election of officers: officer slate nominated at October meeting. Chair – Joe Scorcio; Vice Chair – Sheila Gray. Motion to accept the slate or nominations from the floor: Micki McNaughton moved to accept the slate of officer nominations as presented, Kathy Sheehan seconded. Motion approved. Congratulations to Joe and Sheila.

1 **Recap of Action Items:**

2 Kathy Wolf postponed sending a letter of support for urban forestry research to the Pacific NW
3 USFS research station. Joe sent a letter of congratulations and support from the Council to
4 Commissioner Goldmark upon his re-election. Ara, with the assistance of Lisa and Micki,
5 updated the Council Urban Forestry Award nomination form; it is now on the DNR/WCFC
6 website and available to make Award nominations to the Council.
7

8 **Urban Forestry Program Update:**

9 Additional UCF forestry staff are available for technical assistance– Interagency agreements
10 with two Conservation Districts are in place to utilize staff from Snohomish and Spokane
11 Conservation Districts to provide urban forestry technical assistance. Leif Fixen is now available
12 in Northwest Washington and Garth Davis is available in Eastern Washington.
13

14 Grant update – Nine communities have been selected to receive inventories of trees on public
15 property through the Community Forestry Inventory Assistance Grant; ten communities will
16 receive funding to build urban forestry programming through the 2013 Community Forestry
17 Assistance grants. Lists of recipients for both grants maybe found on the DNR urban forestry
18 website (www.dnr.wa.gov/urbanforestry - grant resources page)
19

20 Inmate Project – Sarah and Linden gave an update for the Wood Waste Utilization project, which
21 would bring together many partners for the purpose of using inmate labor to mill and repurpose
22 urban waste wood (hazard or risk trees removed by communities). Work will begin in May or
23 June 2013. Additional updates will be given at the May meeting.

24 David Nelson asked Sarah to send him contact information for the Sustainable Prisons Project,
25 under the direction of The Evergreen State College, one of the Wood Waste Utilization project
26 partners.
27

28 Tree City USA – Linden reviewed the status of TCUSA applications. Eighty-two cities have
29 applied thus far. Two communities have not renewed: Mount Vernon and Clarkston. Shoreline
30 is our newest TCUSA. Two new Tree Line Utilities, Benton Rural Electric Association and
31 Seattle City Light. Many thanks to Brian Cramer for his assistance in bringing Benton REA
32 onboard. There were no new Tree Campus USA candidates. Materials for all three Arbor Day
33 Foundation programs are available from Linden. Council members are requested to let Linden
34 know if they are available to attend Tree City USA celebration events.
35

36 Tree Link – Linden requested articles for the Council Communique article each month. Linden
37 passed a sign-up sheet to gather authors for the next two years. Discussion ensued.
38

39 **Visit with Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark:** Commissioner of Public Lands
40 Peter Goldmark (CPL) joined the Council for a brief update of DNR direction for 2013. Council
41 was introduced to the CPL. He thanked the Council for their service to Washington and to the
42 DNR. He thanked Sarah for her leadership in urban forestry and in fire suppression activities.
43 Commissioner Goldmark reiterated that planting and protecting trees in our communities is
44 critical for the future health and welfare of Washington residents. The DNR has a unique and
45 varied mission, which is mostly centered around growing, managing, and utilizing to best
46 advantage the abundant forests of the State. The UCF program is one place that a significant
47 difference can be made, where people and forested lands interface. Engaging youth is especially
48 important. The more healthy trees we have in our communities, the more citizens' lives will be
49 enriched. The connection between humans and trees is strong and unique. Land management

1 issues are often contentious, but having these important discussions makes for more robust and
2 productive meetings. Trees change attitudes and better our communities. Commissioner
3 Goldmark is grateful to have the Council as advisors and looks forward to working with them in
4 2013.

5
6 Joe told the CPL that the Council is creating a 2013 Work Plan at its next meeting. Joe stated
7 that things seem to be “loosening up” a bit in the budget, and asked the CPL what issues in
8 particular the Council should work on. The CPL is seeing an increase in new housing starts,
9 which drives the demand—and thus the value—of lumber. China and Japan are huge consumers
10 and have sustained the log market the past few years. As the US economy begins to recover,
11 timber prices are anticipated to increase. There will, however, continue to be challenges
12 regarding the State’s General Fund. The next fiscal forecast will be released in March 2013.
13 DNR is looking to reinvest in silvaculture activities across State lands. In 2009, DNR saw \$60M
14 in funding cuts which resulted in a significant reduction in silvicultural management practices;
15 the CPL hopes to see some of that lost funding restored in order to better care for State trust
16 lands. He encouraged the Council to be daring and use leadership! Be confident in local
17 governments and state governments, and believe that if we plant trees, our partners will care for
18 them.

19
20 Discussion ensued about agency management and investment in urban forestry.

21
22 Councilmember questions for the CPL included

- 23 • How does he see the Council’s role?
- 24 • What about other advisory Councils that DNR has?

25 The CPL felt that developing plans and working together to build on past successes was
26 important, while moving forward in collaboration with other agencies. He encouraged the
27 Council to be advocates for urban forestry to the Legislature. Advisory Councils such as WCFC
28 have significant power to push concepts forward, and the CPL encouraged the Council to support
29 appropriate legislation and carry ideas forward. Organizations represented on the Council can
30 also make big differences in sustaining efforts to move urban forestry ahead.

31 32 **2013 Plan of Action – Discussion**

33 UCF program staff is meeting tomorrow (February 14) to allocate staff time and responsibilities
34 for 2013.

35
36 The Council was more active a few years ago, but has been in a “hunkering down” mode the last
37 few years. Now is the time to move forward. Documenting the roles and duties of Council
38 members is one idea brought forward for the 2013 work plan. What are reasonable expectations
39 for Council members? Discussion ensued.

40
41 Items to be included in the “Duties” document:

- 42 • Expectations based on organization, affiliation and leadership
- 43 • Amount of time reasonably expected for Council activities annually

44
45 May 15, 2013 – Meeting Agenda Items:

- 46 • High-level discussion about the Council purpose.
- 47 • Review purpose and duties of Council and its members in the Articles of Association.

1 Sarah and Linden will work with Joe and Sheila to develop course of action for 2013 to focus
2 council direction into 2014.

3 4 **Visit with State Forester Aaron Everett**

5 Aaron thanked the Council for their service. He attended several Arbor Day events last year and
6 enjoys the chance to thank and represent the people that do the hard work in the field. The
7 Federal budget process is ongoing. The landscape level of the work that gets done is huge. It's
8 essential to let decision-makers know the value of the work that DNR does. For example, last
9 year in Tacoma, the Arbor Day event was at Point Defiance...a breezy and cold day. A week or
10 so after the first rainfall of the fall after a very dry summer, a diver went into an outfall area and
11 was stunned by the pollution and runoff that flushed from the streets into Puget Sound through
12 the stormwater system; a pretty stark reminder of why urban forestry is important. Increasing
13 canopy cover helps to manage and mitigate this stormwater effect. Aaron sees his role as
14 communicating that message.

15
16 We discussed Puget SoundCorps last year, and are implementing the Jobs Bill through the
17 mechanism of the PSC. Federal grant dollars are ever shrinking, but we have good ideas to help
18 us secure Federal funding for important projects.

19
20 Joe asked Aaron what the Council can do to best support DNR and the State Forester. Aaron
21 replied that the first priority is outreach – projects that clearly communicate goals and visibly
22 achieve them. Arbor Day events are critical in that regard; invite congressional staff! It's
23 important to make sure that we are all working in tandem toward the same goals. Aaron invited
24 the Council to reignite the Evergreen Communities Act (ECA). If the appropriation can be
25 moved forward, the ECA can move out of dormancy. Aaron would also see the Evergreen
26 Communities Program ramped back up. Kathy Wolf asked if there were any products that can
27 be developed (suggestion: urban forestry scorecard??) to raise the awareness of state and local
28 leadership about the importance of urban forestry to local communities.

29
30 Council discussed Aaron's remarks. The May meeting will be big picture: where we are going
31 and how do we get there with limited resources. Power of the Pen – how can we create product
32 that can be shared. Maybe Washington State case studies? ECA product? Discuss how to
33 present our successes without shooting down our own argument.

34 35 **Urban Forest Restoration Project**

36 Micki reported that the Urban Forestry Restoration Project coordinates the work of three
37 Washington Conservation Corps crews, based in Clark, King and Pierce counties. By the end of
38 February, these three crews will have worked nearly 2500 hours in twelve different communities
39 in Western Washington. The crews assist local communities with maintenance tasks critical to
40 the health and functionality of urban forests, including removal of non-native invasive plants,
41 tree planting and tree pruning. Literally tons of invasive plants, such as Himalayan blackberry,
42 English ivy and Scotch broom, that smother trees and native plants have been removed from
43 parks and open spaces in urban settings. Thousands of seedling native trees and shrubs have been
44 planted in riparian and wildland-type settings; hundreds of trees on streets and in parks and other
45 developed areas have been pruned for structural strength and integrity.

46 47 **May Meeting information:**

48 The May meeting will be a work session on roles/duties/actions of the Council and its members.

- 49 • The Executive team will meet prior to the Council meeting to strategize.

- All Council members will research and look at the crosswalk for discussion, including mission and vision.
- Follow-up on the letter of support to research station director.
- Report on Legislative actions and outcomes, pending the end of session.
- Awards applications will be reviewed by the Awards Committee, although it may prove easier to recognize a person or group at the Seattle meeting later this year. Staff will promote the Awards Program in the Tree Link and work with Dave to advertise wider in the Wenatchee area.
- Revisit the rolling list of tree link articles/council communique. Staff will help to assemble a list of potential monthly topics.
- Discuss ECA revival strategy for 2014.
- Arbor Month recap by staff.

Council Comments:

Sheila displayed the WCFC/UCF exhibit at the WSAC convention.

Terry moved, Dave seconded, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.